

Grace Episcopal Church
Scripture 202b: Adult New Testament Bible Study
Lesson 3: Jesus According to Matthew
Easter 2, Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Tonight:

Prayer

Jesus According to Matthew – Class Notes

Daniel's Reflection

Compline

Next Week: Assignment for next week: Read Gospel of Luke, NOAB, pp. 1827-1829 & Luke notes, Fant, pp.343-349

Jesus According to Matthew

Powell says the author of Matthew is anonymous. Attribution (name) might have been a mistake of second century Christian leader named Papias who said that Apostle Matthew collected sayings of Jesus in Hebrew language. But text is written in Greek not Hebrew, so Papias probably meant it was a book of sayings regardless of authorship. Author is Jewish Christian from Antioch or other Roman city sometime AFTER destruction of Temple appears to have a copy of Gospel of Mark, Q (a book of other sayings of Jesus), oral tradition and his own source document called "M" by scholars. Matthew created effective narrative meaningful to urban Christians specifically Jewish Christians in the mid-80s. (pp. 107-108)

Handout, Powell's overview of Matthew, 5.1, review as source document/background

Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible, "Gospel of Matthew"

1. Order of Matthew in New Testament being the first book listed is tradition
2. Gospel of Matthew not earliest gospel
3. Matthew structure follows Mark with own sources
4. Main sources are Mark and Q
5. Had own sources "M"
 - a. Documented the virgin birth as did Luke
6. Matthew used the Septuagint, aka LXX (written by 70 writers), for over 60 quotes of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible)
7. Material that is peculiar to Matthew
 - a. Beginnings of Christian theology
 - i. Mt 3: 14-15
 - ii. Mt 12: 5-7
 - iii. Mt 13: 36 -43
 - b. Might have been taken by current Christian worship
 - c. Apocalyptic eschatology

- i. Mt 13: 24-30
 - ii. Mt 20: 1-16
 - iii. Mt 22: 1-14
 - iv. Mt 25
 - v. Most parables are apocalyptic
- 8. Ecclesiastical gospel
 - a. Centered in the church
 - b. Reinterprets Jewish tradition in light of Christianity
 - i. Sermon of the Mount
- 9. Gospel written during overlap of Judaism and Christianity, 70 – 115 AD, Antioch
- 10. Gospel shows later influence of eschatology so Matt is Christian Jewish sect with apocalyptic eschatology driving the theology. Mt 16: 17-19

Powell's Major themes of Matthew (pp. 113 – 122)

- The abiding presence of God
 - God had come to dwell with people
 - God is present in Jesus
 - The Church is present in the world as a dynamic movement
- Jesus as the Son of God
 - God calls Jesus “my son” in Mt 3:17, 17:5
- The Teaching of Jesus
 - Sermon of the Mount (Chapter 5-7)- discipleship, trust in God, moral behavior
 - Missionary Discourse (Chapter 10) – mission, persecution, radical faithfulness
 - Parables Discourse (Chapter 13) – kingdom of heaven
 - Community Discourse (Chapter 18) – life in the church, forgiveness, discipline
 - Eschatological Discourse (Chapter 24-25) – end times, second coming, final judgment
- Discipleship
 - How God wants people to live
- Interpretation of Scripture
 - In the light of Jesus
- Binding and Loosing
 - Jesus reinterpretation of the Law
- Worship and doubt, Faith and Understanding
 - Disciples are fallible who despite failing are destined to be apostles of the Church
- Hostility toward Jewish leaders
 - They are against Jesus and what they do, say , and think is wrong and evil